that whether any special cell can be opened for Bihar in order to keep strict vigilance on law and order situation in the State;

(b) whether any statement has been received from the State Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, Government's view point in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) In the wake of the Jehanabad Jail-break incident (13.11.2005), the Patna High Court, in a public interest petition, observed whether, in view of the prevalent naxal situation in the State, special status be considered for Bihar by placing the State under Special Secretary (IS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c)Maintenance of public order and peace and law & order being in the domain of the State Government the action, security or otherwise, entirely lies with the State Governments to control the naxalite menance. This approach is in line with the scheme of the Constitution and the principle of federalism enshrined in the Constitution.

However, the Central Government views the naxalite menace as a matter of serious concern and has, therefore, been supplementing and coordinating the efforts and resources of the State Government on both security and development fronts so as to enable them to successfully combat the naxalite menance.

In view of the above, the Government is of the opinion that it may not be in order to accord special status to the Bihar for providing various kinds of assistance by placing the State under Special Secretary (Internal Security), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. However, the Central Government remains committed to providing all possible assistance to the naxal affected States to meet the challenge posed by naxalism. The Central Government has been supplementing the resources of the Government of Bihar in dealing with the naxal situation in terms of provision of Central Police Forces, sharing of intelligence inputs, grant of development funds etc.

Compensation to persons killed/injured in road accidents

2655. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of court cases for the payment of compensation in respect

of those killed and seriously injured in road accidents in Delhi pending as on 1st January, 2006;

(b) the number out of those which are more than three years old;

(c) the reasons for slow progress of these cases; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite such cases as inordinate delay in the disposal of such cases causes immense hardship to the concerned, particularly those belonging to the weaker sections of society ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) 4197 Court cases relating to payment of compensation in respect of persons killed and 7980 Court cases in respect of those injured in road accidents in Delhi were pending as on 1st January, 2006. Out of these cases, 2930 cases relating to death and 6204 cases relating to injury were pending for more than three years as on 1.1.2006. The high Court of Delhi has informed that two Fast Track Courts — one at Tis Hazari and the other at Rohini — have been set up to expedite disposal of old cases.

Initiative to contain naxalism

2656. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh strategy or initiative have been taken by Government to counter the challenge posed by the naxalite organizations especially in the North-Eastern part of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No significant report about threat posed by the naxalites in the North-Eastern region have been received so far.

(b) and (c) The Government have clearly defined the policy to combat the challenge posed by naxalites, which *inter alia* includes dealing sternly with the naxalites indulging in violence, to address this menace simultaneously on political, security, development and public perception